



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2021

RE: Bridge No. 026-38-03430 A, SR 26 over Salamonie River (Des. No. 1600828)
Public Hearing – Project Information Packet

Greeting: Welcome Local Resident, Interested Citizen, and Elected / Local Public Official:

Welcome to the Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) public hearing regarding proposed replacement of the bridge carrying SR 26 over the Salamonie River in Jay County, Indiana.

The purpose of this public hearing is to explain the proposed project and to offer all interested persons an opportunity to comment on preliminary design plans, environmental document, and Section 106 document. Additional information about this project may also be found by:

1. **Visiting** the INDOT webpage to learn more about this project: www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-greenfield-district/sr-26-over-salamonie-river-bridge-replacement.
2. **Visiting the USU Consultants, Inc. webpage:** <https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-39818/>
3. **Questions?** Contact INDOT Customer Service at 1-855-INDOT-4-U (1-855-463-6848) INDOT@indot.in.gov.

There are several ways your comments may be received this evening and following tonight's public hearing. You may submit comments in the following manner:

1. **Participate** as speaker during the comment session following tonight's presentation. All statements will be recorded and transcribed in order to be included in the official public hearing transcript.
2. **Complete** a comment form and return it to the sign-in table at tonight's public hearing. Comment forms are available at the sign-in table and also included in your information packet.
3. **E-mail** comments to John Handke at USI Consultants, Inc. (jhandke@usiconsultants.com). If a comment is emailed, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent.
4. **Mail** comments to John Handke (USI Consultants, Inc., 8415 E 56th St., Indianapolis, IN 46216).

Submit comments by **Friday, December 3, 2021.** Comments will be reviewed and considered as part of the INDOT decision making process.

Public Hearing Agenda

- 1) Meeting Called to Order
 - a. Introduction of the Project Team
 - b. Project Stakeholders
- 2) Public Hearing Information
 - a. Hearing Intent and Format
 - b. Submitting Public Comments
 - c. Notice of Public Hearing
 - d. Project Development
- 3) Formal Presentation
 - a. NEPA Process/Environmental Document
 - b. Project Location
 - c. Historic Bridge Information
 - d. Purpose and Need
 - e. Discussion of Alternatives
- 4) Design and Project Details
 - a. Discussion of Preferred Alternative
 - b. Environmental Considerations
 - c. Maintenance of Traffic
 - d. Schedule
- 5) Public Comment Session
 - a. Communication of Project Decisions
 - b. Project Resource Locations
 - c. Project Contacts
- 6) Project Open House

All substantive comments received prior to, during and following the public hearing will be evaluated and responded to in writing within subsequent project documentation. The documentation will address concerns presented during the public hearing process and describe project decisions reached following careful consideration of the views and concerns of the public.

The project team will be available in the display area to explain project details and address questions prior to and following the public hearing.

Thank you for your participation in the public involvement process for this project.

Project Location:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Greenfield District are proceeding with a federal aid bridge project along SR 26, 0.78 miles E of US 27 in Portland, Jay County, Indiana. The project involves Bridge No. 026-38-03430 A, which carries SR 26 over the Salamonie River. The total project length is 1,035 ft. (0.196 miles).

Project Description:

The bridge is a single-span steel thru truss that was originally constructed in 1941 and reconstructed in 1979. It is listed as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to distinctive characteristics that reflect an important phase in bridge construction.

The bridge is listed in the Indiana Historic Bridge Inventory as a Non-Select Bridge. Designation as a Non-Select Bridge means that the structure may be demolished and replaced. Because the bridge is listed as historic, the

project must follow the conditions set forth in the Historic Bridges Programmatic Agreement. A Historic Bridge Alternatives Analysis was prepared by USI Consultants, Inc. on 2/11/2020. Project alternatives including Do Nothing, Rehabilitation, Rehabilitation with Construction of a Bypass Structure, Relocation, and Replacement were evaluated. Replacement of the existing bridge was selected as the preferred alternative. Details of the preferred alternative are as follow.

The existing bridge will be entirely removed and demolished. A 210 ft., three-span (70 ft. each) bulb-tee girder bridge is proposed. The new bridge will have a 30 ft. clear roadway width for two 11 ft. travel lanes and approx. 4 ft. shoulders, a 6 ft. sidewalk on the south side, and a total out-to-out bridge width of 38.83 ft. New bridge rail and approach guardrail meeting current INDOT standards will be installed. Approx. 822 ft. (0.156 miles) of approach roadway will be reconstructed. Storm sewer inlets for roadway drainage will be constructed. Tree replanting will take place on-site to offset tree removal required for construction.

Purpose and Need:

The primary need for this project is due to deterioration of the existing bridge. The most-recent bridge inspection report dated October 13, 2020 indicates the deck, superstructure, and substructure are in fair condition (condition rating 5 out of 9). There is cracking and spalling of the bridge deck with corrosion of the reinforcing steel and staining from the bridge railing and metal deck form present. There is corrosion and section loss on multiple truss members. Lateral movement of the truss has been observed under loading. There is cracking and spalling in the concrete abutments. The existing structure has a low load rating of 28 tons (HS Inventory).

Secondary to the primary project need, the exiting bridge and rail and approach guardrail do not meet current INDOT standards. The bridge also has a narrow clear roadway width of 28 ft.

The purpose of the project is to restore the Salamonie River bridge crossing to satisfactory condition by improving the deck, superstructure, and substructure ratings to at least a 7 out of 9 and to improve the load rating to 36 tons (HS Inventory). The secondary purpose of the project is upgrade the bridge rail and approach guardrail to current INDOT standards and to increase the clear roadway width for commercial vehicles, emergency vehicles, and farm equipment.

Right of Way:

The existing right of way within the project limits varies from approx. 11 to 60 ft. measured from centerline of roadway. 0.73 acres of permeant right of way acquisition is proposed. There will be no temporary right of way acquisition.

Schedule:

- Public Comments Due: 12/3/2021
- Finalize Environmental Document: December 2021
- Finalize Design: February 2022
- Contractor Award of Project (Letting): July 2022
- Construction Begins: Fall 2022

Cost Estimate:

The current construction cost estimate is \$2,929,000.

Maintenance of Traffic:

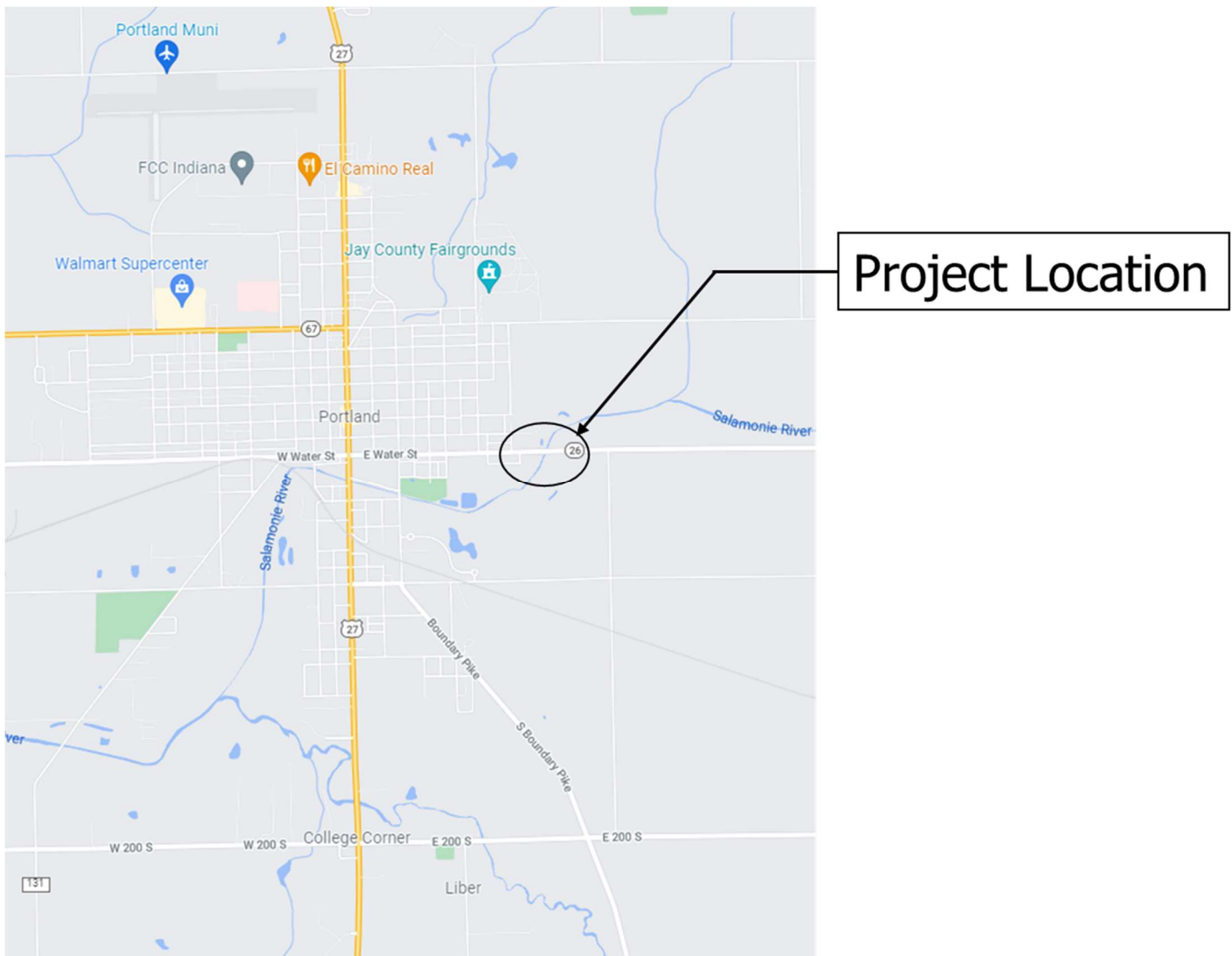
The MOT scheme for the project used full road closure with posted detour. The detour route will use US 27, Indiana SR 67, Ohio SR 29, and Ohio SR 47. The detour length is approximately 26.5 miles and will be in place

for the entire construction timeline. The proposed sidewalk work is an extension of existing sidewalk. There are no sidewalks within the project limits. Construction will not impact any existing pedestrian facilities. Accordingly, a pedestrian MOT plan is not included.

Project Resource Locations:

The project preliminary design plans and draft environmental document is available for public review and inspection at the following locations:

- Jay County Public Library (315 N Ship St., Portland, IN 47371)
- USI Consultants, Inc. Office (8415 E 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46216)
- USI Consultants, Inc. Webpage (<https://www.usiconsultants.com/indot-contract-b-39818/>)
- INDOT Webpage (www.in.gov/indot/about-indot/central-office/welcome-to-the-greenfield-district/sr-26-over-salamonie-river-bridge-replacement)
- Questions: Contact INDOT Customer Service 1-855-463-6848 (1-855-INDOT4U) INDOT@indot.in.gov



Thank you for attending tonight's public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT SHEET

Thank you for attending and participating in this evening's public hearing. Please submit comments by using the space provided below. Please submit comments by 12/3/2021 for inclusion into the public hearing transcript. Comments should be mailed or submitted by email to the contact below.

John Handke
USI Consultants, Inc.
8415 E 56th St.
Indianapolis, IN 46216
Phone: (317) 649-2267
Email: jhandke@usiconsultants.com

Hearing Date: 11/18/2021
Project: SR 26 over Salamonie River, Bridge Project, in Portland, Indiana (Des. No. 1600828)

Name (Please print): _____

Address:

[illegible]

SIGNATURE: _____